

FIRE PREVENTION STANDARDS

Subject: Cut Natural Christmas Trees

Number: 435.201

Date: Revised 11/19/01

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OBJECTIVE

To promote fire and life safety in places of public use or assembly the Fire District has the following policy. It is the policy of the Fire District to enforce Appendix IV-B of the 1991 Uniform Fire Code in reference to Christmas Trees with the following additional requirements.

PROCEDURE

- A. Permits: Are not required at this time.
- B. Flame Retardance: Trees shall be properly treated with a flame retardant listed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Application shall be performed by a State Fire Marshal Licensed Applicator in accordance with the manufactures instructions. For a list of licensed applicators call the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Technical Services, at 916- 262-1936.
- C. Tags: Trees shall bear a tag stating the date of placement in the public building or public place in any building. The type of flame-retardant treatment used, the name of the licensed person who applied the flame retardant, and the name of the person affixing the tag.
- D. Electric Lights: Electrical decorations used on trees shall be U.L. or F.M. listed for that use.
- E. Watering: If a stand becomes dry the tree shall be removed immediately.

Mike Dobson, Fire Marshal

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1991 UNIFORM FIRE CODE

APPENDIX IV-B

APPENDIX IV-8 CHRISTMAS TREES

1. SCOPE

The use of natural or resin-bearing cut trees in public buildings shall be in accordance with this appendix.

2. PERMITS

A permit is required prior to placement of the tree in ii public building.

3. FLAME RETARDANCE

Trees shall be properly treated with ii flame retardant approved by the chief.

4. TAGS

Trees shall bear a tag stating date of placement in the public building, type of flame-retardant treatment used, name of the person who applied the flame retardant and the name of the person affixing the tag.

5. SUPPORT DEVICE

The support device that holds a tree in an upright position shall be of a type that is stable and that:

- (a) Does not damage or require removal of the tree stem base,
- (b) Holds the tree securely and is of adequate size to avoid tipping over of the tree, and .
- (c) Is capable of containing a two-day minimum supply of water, covering the stem at least 2 inches, and the quantity specified in Table No. A-IV-B-I.

6. BUTT CUT

Prior to setting up a tree, the trunk shall have a fresh butt cut on a diagonal at least 1 inch above the original cut .

7. WATERING

Hot tap water shall be used when first filling ii support stand, and the stand shall not be allowed to become dry of water. If a stand becomes dry, or the tree shall be removed immediately.

8. DRYNESS

Trees shall be checked for dryness by the following method: stand in front of a branch, grasp it with reasonably firm pressure and pull your hand toward you, allowing the branch to slip through your grasp. If the needles fall off readily, the tree does not have adequate moisture content, and it shall be removed immediately.

9. OPEN FLAMES

Candles and open flames shall not be used on or near a tree within a distance equal to the height of the tree.

10. ELECTRIC LIGHTS

Electrical decorations used on trees shall be listed.

TABLE NO. A.IV.B.1-SUPPORT STAND WATER CAPACITY

TREE HEIGHT (feet)	MINIMUM SUPPORT STAND WATER CAPACITY (gallons)	TYPICAL DAILY WATER EVAPORATION AMOUNT quarts (gallons)
Up to 6 ½	½	½ to 1
6 ½ to 10	1	1 to 2
Over 10	3	(1/2 to 1 ½)

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Fire Safety Tips For Natural Christmas Trees

The most important safety factor of a natural tree is its freshness. The higher the moisture content of the tree, the less likely it is to dry out and become a serious fire hazard. The following tips will insure you have the freshest - and the safest - tree possible.

- Select a tree with needles that do not pull easily from its branches or break when gently bent.
- Consider *professional* spraying with a SFM approved chemical flame retardant.
- Clean the tree stand with a mixture of one cup of water and a capful of bleach.
- Re-cut the trunk diagonally one or two inches above the old cut and immediately place in water.
- Keep the water level in the tree stand above the cut line.
- Consider using a commercial floral preservative in the water.
- Place the tree away from heat sources, being careful not to block exitways.
- Turn down room heat when leaving the house or retiring for the night.
- Check tree lights carefully for damage.
- Do not leave lights on for long periods of time.
- Remove the tree as soon as possible after the holidays.
- Never burn a tree in a fireplace or wood stove.

